UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM
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Upper Hudson Library System Presents Annual Library Service Awards

Albany, NY (June 26) -- The Upper Hudson Library System presented its library service awards at their 53rd annual dinner at the Century House in Latham, NY earlier this month. UHLS Board President Mary Muller said, "The public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties are changing lives every day and the Upper Hudson Library System highlights this transformative work through our annual awards program."

The following awards were presented:

2013 Library Volunteer of the Year Award
Presented to Berneata Bargar, W.K. Sanford Town Library (Colonie)

Berneata Bargar was been recognized for her volunteer service to the William K. Sanford Town Library. She is a dedicated and generous volunteer whose work exemplifies a true spirit of volunteer service to her Library. Berneata stepped in to stabilize and then revitalize the Library's Friends of the Library organization and expanded its efforts to promote and support Colonie's library. Berneata's profound impact on the library was described this way in the nomination letter - "In small ways and large Berneata has given dedicated service and done extraordinary work for the Friends and for the Library. I am so glad we have Berneata. She has helped to make ours a better library in a very real sense."

2013 Library Trustee of the Year Award
Presented to Nancy Lendrum, Berne Public Library

 Nancy Lendrum was recognized for her service as a Trustee of the Berne Public Library. Sharing her professional experience with the Berne Public Library and the Town of Berne, Nancy was one of the driving forces behind the collaboration between the Library and the Town to purchase, plan and renovate a decommissioned Church to become the beautiful new Berne Public Library.   Nancy Lendrum, quite literally building on her family's multi-generational service to the Berne Public library, was instrumental in the creation of a new home for the Berne Public Library.

2013 Rural Library Program of the Year Award
Presented to the Altamont Free Library for their "Create Your Skate" Program

This innovative program was created to engage a noticeable non-library user segment - kids seen riding their skateboards near the Library, but who rarely come into the building. Partnering with local schools and the Albany County District Attorney's office, the program attracted fifty local teens and tweens who worked with graphic artists and skate shop mechanics to design and build their own custom skateboards. They then used their new boards to participate in community service projects like a skateboard food drive and a mentoring program called "Book and Board Buddies," where participants read to younger children in the library and then took the kids out to the park for a skate. The Albany County District Attorney's office is working to replicate this successful program in other communities in the county. According to the nomination letter "Create Your Skate raised the profile of the Library and made it a much cooler place in the eyes of a lot of ten-year-old boys!"

2013 Urban/Suburban Library Program of the Year Award
Presented to the Albany Public Library for their "Girls Got Game" Program

This unique program was designed to simultaneously teach and inspire teen/tween girls by creating an opportunity for participants to learn more about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in a cool, fun way. In a week-long day camp format, participants created their own video games using a free web-based gaming program called SCRATCH. The Library partnered with female programmers and technical artists from a local video game company who worked with the campers on their projects and at the same time shared their experiences as women working in STEM careers.

In addition to a framed certificate, each winner receives a cash award of $250 for their home library to help support future community building efforts. The UHLS awards program is funded by the generous support of corporate partners US Light Energy, OverDrive, Inc., and Security Plumbing and Heating Supply.   "We are so pleased to be able recognize the wonderful things happening in our libraries and our corporate partners make this annual awards program possible, "explained UHLS Executive Director Tim Burke.

For more information about the award winners and important work of all of the public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, please contact Tim Burke at (518 437-9880 x222 or tim.burke@uhls.lib.ny.us.

The Upper Hudson Library System strengthens public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, providing essential services to connect people and information. To learn more about Upper Hudson, visit Upper Hudson's website at www.uhls.org<http://www.uhls.org>.

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